

MEETING SUMMARY

Focus Macomb Transportation Committee

**Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick -- Conference Room
24668 Hall Road
Clinton Township, Michigan**

May 16, 2006

Members Present:

Anthony Lombardo, President, Lombardo Companies
Anthony Viviano, President, Sterling Heights Dodge
Lillian Adams, Executive Director, Sterling/Utica/Shelby Twp. Chamber
Benjamin Aloia, President, Aloia & Associates
Doug Brown, ASTI Environmental
Maura Cook, Daimler Chrysler Corporation
Michael Deyak, CFO, Premier Financial Credit Union
Fran Gillet, Commissioner, Macomb County Road Commission
Ed Hoover, Business Representative, Rizzo Services
Richard Ives, Vice-President, John Carlo, Inc.
David Lakin, Vice-President, Spalding DeDecker Associates
Marilyn Lane, President, Lane Development
Pat Lehman, Retired Director Community Relations
Ralph Maccarone, Supervisor, Shelby Township
Vic Martin, President, Best Western Sterling Inn
Roy Rose, President, Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick ~ Focus Macomb Co-Chair
Gregory L. Windingland, Development Coordinator, Lombardo Companies
Bill Westrick, Principal Engineer, Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick

Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Staff Present:

John Crumm, Program Manager, Planning and Environmental Services
~ Transportation Committee Staff Advisor
Jason Friedmann, Senior Planner

Guest Speaker

Robert Hoephner, County Highway Engineer, Road Commission of Macomb County

Members Not Present:

Jesse Berger, President, Berger & Sons
Gina Cavaliere, Director, Warren DDA/TIFA
Dan Dirks, General Manager, SMART
Robert Milewski, President & CEO, Mt. Clemens General Hospital

THE MEETING WAS BROUGHT TO ORDER AT 3:40 P.M. by Focus Macomb Executive Co-Chair Roy Rose who introduced the Transportation Co-Chairs, Anthony Viviano and Anthony Lombardo. John Crumm, provided a brief history leading to the formation of Focus Macomb, citing the survey conducted by Gyro on the public's

FOCUS MACOMB
Transportation Committee Meeting
May 16, 2006

opinion of Macomb County. He told the members, the Transportation Committee was included as one of the four committees of Focus Macomb, as survey respondents stated they found it difficult getting from place to place in the County, indicating many of our roads are congested and in poor repair.

PRESENTATION BY ROBERT HOEPFNER

Mr. Hoepfner's presentation, "Macomb County Congestion-Reduction Plan" (see enclosed CD) outlined the roles the County Road Commission, MDOT and the Federal government play in constructing and maintaining County roads. He told the members the two biggest problems we face -- congestion and inadequate funding -- cannot and will not be solved by the State of Michigan or the Federal government, due to current economic conditions and legal restrictions. The members learned we have 2,912 miles of roadways in Macomb County. The State is responsible for only 166 miles; our cities and villages 1,112 miles; but the major burden falls on the County for the remaining 1,800 miles of roadways. Townships are currently limited/restricted by statute from levying taxes to improve their roadways. He also explained the means by which road repairs are funded and how those funds have not increased to meet the rise in inflation to meet the costs of repairs. In closing he offered possible solutions undertaken by other communities and governmental units to offset construction and maintenance costs and alleviate congestion.

PRESENTATION BY RALPH MACCARONE, SUPERVISOR, SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Mr. Maccarone spoke on the construction and improvement of local roads in Shelby Township. Through a combination of reserves and assessments to residents in select areas, the township has been able to make significant improvements to its roads and plan for future expansion. While many believe Shelby Twp. has passed a special millage to fund roads, the township has actually prioritized local road improvement, and has obligated a significant portion of their general operating millage to fund improvements. He also explained some of the challenges facing local communities as Macomb County expands.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AREAS OF COMMITTEE CONCENTRATION

- "Ensure Macomb County gets its fair share of tax revenue.

Bring more Federal and State transportation dollars back to Macomb County. Macomb County is a "donor" community and pays more in gas taxes than it receives.

Collaborate with neighboring counties (Oakland and Wayne) and lobby the Federal and State level for more transportation dollars for Southeast Michigan.

Increase the set portion of gasoline tax that returns to each County.

- Possible tax increase and/or other revenue generation.

Recognize that the Road Commission of Macomb County (RCMC) does not receive enough funding to keep up with maintenance, repairs, and alleviation of congestion in the County.

Examine the possibility of a countywide tax increase to pay for repairs in current transportation system. (Possible millage, fee increase, or other revenue generation).

Consider an increase in the gasoline tax (last raised in 1997).

FOCUS MACOMB
Transportation Committee Meeting
May 16, 2006

- Look at mass transit, air, and other forms of transportation.

Recognize that roads and automobile traffic are only part of an overall transportation system.
Evaluate mass transit, air, and other alternative transportation needs.

Develop a plan to address transportation patterns that have changed from the suburbs to the City of Detroit to county to county (Macomb to Oakland).

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), including traffic monitoring, camera articulated traffic signals, traffic signal timing; etc., might be a large part of the congestion solution. MCRC is implementing many new technologies.”¹

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m. by Roy Rose.

Prepared by,
Kate Doyle

¹ Jason Friedmann, Senior Planner, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development (Tape 1/FOCUS MACOMB Transportation Committee Meeting).